

Memoranda relative to three Andamanese in the charge of Major Tickell, when Deputy Commissioner of Amherst, Tenasserim, in 1861.—By Col. S. R. TICKELL.

In May, 1861, three Andamanese, who had been captured near Port Blair some time previously, and sent over to Rangoon by the Superintendent, Colonel (then Major) Haughton, for educational purposes, were placed in my charge by Colonel Phayre, at that time Commissioner of Pegu.

Hitherto they had been attended to by one of the men of the Naval Brigade at Port Blair, to whom they seemed much attached; but they were parted from their keeper at Rangoon, and sent over to Maulmein under the care of one of the Officers of the Steamer, who forwarded them to me on their arrival.

They were dressed, when I first saw them, in light sailor's costume, slops and jumpers of white duck, and straw hats, bound with broad black ribbon, bearing the ship's name to which their former guardian had belonged. They could not speak a single word intelligible to a by-stander, and looked so frightened and miserable amongst new faces, that after many attempts at coaxing and cheering them up, I considered the best plan to take them back to the steamer, and re-ship them for Rangoon. One of the small hack palankeen carriages that ply in Maulmein was therefore procured, into which they got with alacrity, fancying I suppose they were to be immediately driven to Port Blair, and off they started for the steamer. But I had hardly re-entered the house and commenced a letter to Colonel Phayre about them, when back they came, walking hand-in-hand with a Burman, amid a crowd of people, and appearing as excited and joyful as they were before dejected. On enquiring the reason of their return, I was told that as the carriage was proceeding up the road, they had espied a Burman whom they had known at Port Blair, and overjoyed at the sight of a familiar face, one of them had opened the door, and before the vehicle could be stopped, got out, (thereby receiving a rough fall on the ground,) and embraced his old friend, whom they all three accompanied back to my house, in great glee, laughing, patting him on the breast, and putting their arms round his neck. That same evening I engaged his services to take the immediate charge of the

Andamanese, and for the rest of their stay at Maulmein, they lived under his roof. The arrangement was particularly convenient, as the Burman "Moung Shway Hman" speaks English, which it was proposed to teach the Andamanese, and is a man of steady habits and good character.

The photograph which accompanied Colonel Fytche's paper in the J. A. S. No. III. 1862 will give a better idea of the physiognomy of these people than the most laboured description. Mr. Blyth, Curator of the Asiatic Society's Museum, and a remarkably accurate observer, was at Maulmein for some time with these Andamanese, and pointed out the leading peculiarities of their configuration, and as his remarks have been embodied in the report, which Colonel Fytche, Commissioner of Tenasserim, sent to the Journal of the Asiatic Society, it would be superfluous to dwell on this part of the subject; but I would take this opportunity of observing that I cannot agree with an opinion which has been more than once published, that the Andamanese have no affinity to the African race. They appear to me on the contrary, to be very closely allied. The small ear and the less gross lips are not, in my opinion, sufficient data on which to found a fifth, to the long established four grand divisions of mankind. From the few remarks to be gathered on the subject, in Bowring's account of the Philippines, it seems probable that the people of the interior, called Nigrettoes, who have so long withstood all attempts at civilization and communication with the Europeans and Eurasians of the coast, are the same race as the Andamanese. And further South, the ferocious savages of the interior of Sumatra, from whose hands Madame Pfeiffer had so providential an escape, are also probably the same, but she has not given a sufficiently detailed description of them to allow of certainty on this point. How this so-called Papuan tribe came to be so separated from the strongly defined geographical limits of the African race, and spread throughout the Eastern Archipelago, will perhaps ever remain a matter of conjecture: but their distribution throughout that space, from the Andamans to Sumatra, (if not further,) may be accounted for by the propinquity of those islands to each other.

Our three friends were named at Port Blair, Crusoe, Jumbo, and Friday, and labelled accordingly; each name being stamped on a tin medal worn round its owner's neck. The necessity for such an apparently whimsical arrangement may be understood, when it is

explained that this singular people have ' (as far as close observation allowed us to observe)' *no proper names* for each other, and readily learnt to adopt those by which they were ticketed.

On their arrival at Maulmein all three had bad coughs, and Crusoe and Jumbo evident phthisical symptoms. Crusoe's health improved after some time: but Jumbo gradually grew worse, and his malady was greatly increased from exposure during inclement weather, in an attempt to escape, which he and his companions made one stormy night. They made their way in a native canoe towards the mouth of the Maulmein river: but were glad, in three or four days, to return under the guidance of the village police to Maulmein. Jumbo never rallied from the effects of this excursion, and in spite of all that medical assistance could do, died in the jail hospital on the 12th June, nearly one month after his arrival. His comrades repaired to the hospital and showed signs of genuine grief at his death. They also performed some singular ceremonies over the body, which I wished to have witnessed repeated the next morning: but owing to some rather precipitate measures, taken without the slightest reference to myself, to prepare a skeleton of the deceased for presentation to the Asiatic Society's Museum, I was unable to do so.

Of the three, Crusoe, the oldest, (apparently about 35 years of age,) was the only one who showed any moroseness of disposition. Jumbo was of a cheerful gentle nature, and Friday the youngest, whose age might be 18 to 20, was at times very lively, good tempered, and fond of his immediate overseer Shway Hman, and of myself. They came frequently to my house, and were allowed free access to every part of Maulmein. Their curiosity at every new object was great, but evanescent. They soon tired of everything, and when left alone, relapsed into dejection, making unintelligible speeches with lamentable signs, evidently about a return to their own country.

Some time after Jumbo's death, Crusoe showed consumptive symptoms, to a degree which made me despair of ever getting him alive back amongst his countrymen: but he fortunately rallied during the heavy rains, and left Maulmein for Port Blair comparatively well. Friday, after getting over a cough that at first troubled him, continued in robust health to the time of his departure. It is an extraordinary fact that savages, accustomed from birth to go naked, or nearly so, contract pulmonary diseases if forced to wear clothing. This has

been remarked amongst the aborigines of Australia and the South Sea islands. Crusoe's height is 5' 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ '. That of Friday 4' 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ '. The former is of rather a spare frame, which may be partly attributed to pneumonia. Friday is square, muscular, and deep chested. Both have small hands and feet; which, with their foreheads, are cicatrised all over with scratches inflicted on themselves as a cure for all manner of pains and aches; and the feet of both had a constant adematous appearance, with small feeble toes wide apart, as if they were never much used to pedestrian exercise. Both of them occasionally complained of headache, and would then smell with avidity at salts, stuff their nostrils with leaves freshly plucked, or as a last resource, score their foreheads with a knife or a piece of broken glass, till they bled pretty freely. They were much averse to taking our medicines, and Crusoe on one occasion threatened his Burman keeper with a knife, for trying to administer some nauseous dose. Neither of them would take to learning English. They repeated like parrots the words we endeavoured to make them understand, and at last grew so averse to their schooling, that at any attempt to commence it, they would feign fatigue or sickness as readily as any truant schoolboy. They were in fact *too old* to learn, and although Friday was smart and intelligent, he showed it more by his extraordinary powers of mimicry than by learning anything useful. This persistence in imitating every gesture and every sound of the voice, made it particularly difficult to obtain from him the Andamanese name of even any visible object. Those entered in the annexed vocabulary, have been elicited with no small labour and patience, by myself and their keeper Shway Hman. I succeeded in obtaining the names of a variety of fishes, (common to the bay of Bengal,) by showing coloured drawings of them: but of quadrupeds they appeared perfectly ignorant, the only mammal they seemed to know was a pig, "Rogo," and this name they applied indifferently to cattle, ponies, elephants, deer, and monkeys. They appeared also to have very few names for birds, and when shewn the pictures of some which I knew to be found in the Andamans, merely attempted to imitate the notes of any species they might have had in their minds at the time.

To judge by Crusoe and Friday, the Andamanese are not a timid race. They mingled unconcernedly amongst crowds of people, and at first used to help themselves to any thing they took a fancy to, off

the stalls in the bazar. When teased with the numbers looking at them, Crusoe would stride towards the throng, waving them off and calling out in Burmese "â-loong thwa" (go! all!) They took great pleasure in the pways or Burmese dances, and learnt to imitate the performances with marvellous exactness, to the great delight of the Burmese, who crowded to see them. Sometimes they exhibited their own national dance, which appears to consist solely in lifting their clenched fists above the head, and kicking the ground rapidly and forcibly with their heels. It has a peculiarly savage effect; but having apparently excited great mirth amongst the spectators, Crusoe and Friday took offence at such notice, and latterly never repeated their exhibitions. With the little hack carriages which ply in Maulmein they soon became familiar, and were treated to rides almost every day: and they would walk up to a pony, and hug it, though once or twice narrowly escaping a bite. When first taken to see some steam saw-mills where elephants were employed stacking timber, they showed no alarm at the huge animals, although the first they had ever seen, and Friday was about to walk up to and pat a large tusker, when the bystanders restrained him. Of fire arms or of anything explosive however, they seem to have some dread. Latterly they learnt very well the use of money, and any cash in their possession was usually spent in the purchase of pork or other meat at the Chinamen's shops. Fruit (except plantains) or sweets, they cared little for; but were very fond of tea prepared in the English way. Fish they were indifferent to, also to rice: but they ate a great deal of meat and yams, making three hearty meals a day. I generally gave them a fowl when they visited me, and for which they took care to ask by calling out "kookroo koo" and imitating the cries of poultry. They killed the fowl by pressing the chest and neck, and swinging it round and round. They would then pluck, clean, and boil it, their usual mode of cooking anything. Occasionally they broiled meat on the fire: but never eat animal substance raw. But they never set about cooking for themselves if they could induce their keeper's wife "Ma Shway" to save them the trouble. At my house they were often allowed to sit at the breakfast table, where they behaved with decorum, but quite at their ease: lolling back in their chairs, and pointing towards anything they wanted. They learnt to use a spoon, knife, and fork readily.

In their visits to me I used to remark that Crusoe on first arriving would shout out something in his loud harsh voice. It occurred so often, that I am induced to think the act analogous to a custom in some parts of Ireland amongst the peasantry, where a man on entering a cottage calls out "Good luck to all here"—I have never been able to ascertain what it was that Crusoe said on these occasions.

As I before remarked, these people appeared to have no proper names. When one called the other, it was with a shout of "Hy" much as is used in hailing a cabstand. But occasionally they named each other Crusoe and Friday, and invariably spoke of their country as Blair. They learnt my name, but usually addressed me as "Má-ey, (Oh man) ; nevertheless it is difficult to conceive how any community can carry on intercourse without the aid of proper names both to persons and places, and I am not aware that such a strange deficiency has been observed in the language of any other tribe, however savage.

Although most pertinacious beggars, and glad to take anything offered them, their cupidity was chiefly shown for iron, of which they took with them from Maulmein, a large quantity in the shape of knives, forks, dás, or Burmese choppers, nails, scissors, hammers, and needles. They frequently sat for hours watching the blacksmiths at work, and also learnt to ply the needle with some skill and to use scissors. As they acquired a strong liking for clothing, it is possible they will not willingly return to their old habits of nudity, and so will find their sartorial accomplishments of advantage. Although I procured them a quantity of the coarse kind of tackle used for sea-angling, they took no interest in its use ; which is the more singular, as in their native state they are most expert fishermen, especially in spearing fish.

Friday procured a bow and some arrows, with which I met him one day armed, marching up the street at the head of a posse of idle boys : but I never had an opportunity of witnessing his skill in archery. He had seen guns fired but never attempted using one himself. They were both expert swimmers, their mode of progression being with the arms and legs alternately, the former under water : not striking out like an Englishman, nor throwing one arm out after another like the generality of continental Europeans. They could manage a Burmese canoe with ease : but never occupied themselves with paddling about for amusement. They evinced great pleasure in making short trips into the interior with their conductor, visiting

the numerous orchards and villages in the vicinity of Maulmein. And as the arrival of the mail steamer invariably renewed their hankering after their own country, I used latterly to send them away during the stay of the vessel in the port, and having found out their name for the moon "Chookleyro" I was able generally to soothe them when much dejected, by repeating the word, and "Blair kadó" (go to Blair), and holding up as many fingers as I supposed might mark the number of months they were likely to stay.

They were fond of tobacco, and of such snuff as was procurable in the bazar, but owing to the state of Crusoe's lungs, smoking was not allowed to him latterly. They seemed to take pleasure in having the scanty frizzly wool of their heads shaved off, an operation which was several times performed on them. They were very docile in learning habits of cleanliness: bathing every day, using soap, and getting their clothes washed, cleaning their plates after meals, sweeping the floor, &c. To "Ngapee," a strong smelling condiment made of dried and powdered fish, in universal use amongst the Burmans, they could never be reconciled. Besides the phlebotomising operation already described, they used, when in pain, and also when feeling chilly, to apply heated stones to the afflicted part; and on such occasions would huddle together close to the fire. They showed great pleasure at the sight of English children, and would kiss and fondle them if the little folks permitted it. To Burmese children also they evinced great partiality, and frequently caressed Shway Hman's daughter, a child of 5 years of age. Their grief at the death of their comrade Jumbo, was great, but not lasting.

When the time came for these poor creatures to return to their own country, and it was explained to them they were to go, which was chiefly done by patting them on the back with a smiling countenance, and repeating the words "Blair ka-do," without the ominous fingers indicating the moons yet intervening, their delight is not to be described. For the two nights previous to their departure for Amherst, where they were to embark on board the "Tubal Cain," they lay awake and singing, and had all their property carefully packed and put under their pillows. But at the moment of departure, they showed unwillingness to leave Shway Hman's wife behind, and when on board the ship, were disconsolate at their Burman friend himself not accompanying them. Fortunately they met there Lieut. Hellard I. N.;

whom they knew, and also a sailor of the Naval brigade at Port Blair, who had formerly charge of them, and to whom they were much attached, and under the care of these kind friends they reached their native country safely, and were, with all their traps, put on shore at a spot on the beach they pointed out, and quickly vanished into the jungle!

From that time to the present, I have heard no more of my quondam protegés: I cannot indeed distinctly ascertain whether either of them ever made his appearance again at Port Blair. An apprehension existed for a long time, that they had been murdered by their countrymen for the sake of the precious iron articles they had with them, and I know not whether such a conjecture has been refuted.

The experiment of civilizing these two, by weaning them from their wild habits and creating artificial wants, to supply which should involve the necessity of frequent visits to the settlement, and thus form as it were the nucleus of increasing intercourse with a superior race, has certainly so far failed. With younger subjects we might have succeeded better, particularly in teaching them English: but probably so at the expense of their own language and of their own habits to such a degree, that as interpreters or channels of communication with the natives, they would have been as useless as Crusoe or Friday. It remains to be seen what effects will by and bye arise from the repeated interviews between the aborigines and our people. Unfortunately these are frequently of anything but an amicable nature, and tend rather to widen than to bridge over the gulph between them. Indeed if the inference be correct, that the inhabitants are of the same race as the Nigrettoes of the Philippines, who to this day keep entirely aloof from the settlers on the coast, we may surmise that the colonisation of the Andaman islands, when its spread begins to interfere with the aborigines, will tend rather to the extermination of the latter, than to any amelioration in their condition. It is to be regretted that since the days of Colonel Haughton, very little information is published regarding our relations with this truly savage people.

Rangoon, July 28th, 1863.

*Vocabulary of Andamanese words, as ascertained from CRUSOE
and FRIDAY.*

NOUNS.

Fish,	Do.
Man,	Má.
Woman,	Chana.
Water, } Rain, }	Pano.
Moon,	Chookleyro.
Yam,	Chatee.
Plantains,	Eng-ngeyra.
Rope,	Ailák (Bengali ?) alát.
Cocoanut,	Jayda.
Rice (unboiled,)	Anakit.
A stick,	Erreybat.
Spit, ..	Moochee.
A pot,	Tók.
String,	Garrik.
Cock (poultry,)	Kookroo (Beng.)
Plate or dish,	Wyda.
Hat, cover,	Seytey tók.
A carriage,	Raik (?)
Knife, } Sword, }	Koona.
Pig, pork,	Rogo.
Noon or Sun ?	Aleyburdra.
A Sore,	Angoonchoon.
Fire,	Chaukay.
Fire-wood,	Chapa.
Meat, } Flesh, }	Rekdama.
Bread,	Ochata.
Boiled rice,	Chata.
A cheroot,	Dákanapo.
A snake,	Wangada.
A Bow,	Karama.
Broken bits of glass,	Beramato.
Needles, Arrow-head ? Bits of iron, Tólbót.	

Smoke,	Moralitorkay.
Maize,	Oodala.
A Rat,	Itnachamma.
Bones,	Tato.
Sugar Cane,	Teeree.
Sweet things,	Jóng.
Little girl,.....	Chanjibal.
Little boy,.....	Májibal.
Flower,	Cheyda.
Ship,	Cheyley.
A spider,	Nyonada.
A musquito,	Tayla.
Tongue,	Kytala.
A tooth,.....	Tokadoobda.
A knee,	Lo.
Blood,	Pay.
Hair,	Eppee.
A foot,	Onkono.
A nose,	Icharónga.
A ear,	Pogo.
A eye,	Edala.
A hand,.....	Gogo.
Bits of cloth,	Rollo.
A gun,	Beerma (?)
A star,	Chittooree.
A stone,.....	Tylee.
Wax,.....	Pyda.
The head,	Pyleeda.
To-morrow,	Garra ?

ADJECTIVES OR PARTICIPLES.

Cold (as meat,)	Mauriwada.
Chipped	Lokkamen.
Lost or concealed ?	Kyatalaya ?
Cold (as weather,)	Tatay.
Spilt,.....	Kaupilay.
Unripe,	Potowyk.
Hot,	Deggaralak.

Itching,	Dowkodoblak.
Good,.....	Ooba.
Bad,	Ookaoba.
Tired,	Odoola.
Dead,.....	Awalay.

VERBS.

To sit,	Deedo.
To sleep,	Mamee.
To take,	Nya.
To go,	Kadó.
To come,	Kameeka.
To bring,	Taw.
To walk,	Dikleer.
To dance,	Tykpa.
To throw away,.....	Apay.
To vomit,	Dadway.
To bathe,	Darcha.
To cut,	Kauppa.
To give,	Jay.
To broil, }	Pówet.
To roast, }	

ADVERBS.

Much,	Yád.
No,	Yabadá.

PHRASES.

Sit a little,	Tara deedo.
Much fish,	Yád do.
Stomach full,	Tek bo.
Don't go,	A kuddo.
Rain falls,	Pano lappa.
Put it down,	Gulla loongdakéy.
I will remain here,	Do palee.
Take it (from another,)	Nyey ree.
Let it be: Put it down,.....	Tota da.
I will not give,	Oochinda.
Let it alone,	Kookapa.

